CALIFORNIA LIFE SCIENCES

INNOVATION SHOWCASE

Connecting CA's Most Promising Startups with Investors and Corporate Partners

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024 | BAKAR BIOENGINUITY HUB, BERKELEY

DIGITAL PROGRAM

Welcome to the 2024 CLS Innovation Showcase

PROGRAM

1:00pm	Check-in
1:30-1:45pm	**Welcome Remarks**
1:45-2:30pm	**Panel Discussion** | Navigating the Evolving Investment Terrain: Insights into the Life Sciences Sector
2:30-2:50pm	Break
2:50-4:00pm	**Company Presentations + Investor Q&A (2 parallel tracks)** *Track A: Therapeutic Track* *Track B: MedTech Track*
4:00-4:20pm	Break
4:20-5:30pm	**Company Presentations + Investor Q&A (2 parallel tracks)** *Track A: Therapeutic Track* *Track B: MedTech Track*
5:30-7:00pm	**Networking Reception & Solutions Corridor**

Company Presentations Format:
Each presenting company will give a 10-minute presentation followed by a five-minute Q&A with the investor panel.

Session 1: Company Presentations

Track A: Therapeutics	Track B: MedTech
Anviron (Oncology)	Arteri Tech (Cardiovascular)
Califia Pharma, Inc. (Oncology)	Humanity Neurotech (Neurology/Psychiatry)
CDR3 Therapeutics (Oncology)	Sayenza Biosciences (Aesthetic Surgery & Regenerative Medicine)

Session 2: Company Presentations

Track A: Therapeutics	Track B: MedTech
Acrobat Genomics (Genetic Disorders)	Asha Medical (Immunotherapy)
Orphagen Pharmaceuticals (Oncology)	Respiree (Cardio-pulmonary)
Sphinxion Therapeutics (Pediatric Rare Disease)	Scientific Horizons (Pulmonary/Drug delivery)
VIAN Therapeutics (Ophthalmology)	Syntr Health (Reconstructive Surgery)

Companies listed in presentation order.

Panel Spotlight

Navigating the Evolving Investment Terrain: Insights into the Life Sciences Sector

David H. Crean, Ph.D.
Managing Partner,
Cardiff Advisory LLC

MODERATOR

Stuart Hwang, Ph.D.
Venture Partner,
Remiges Ventures

June Lee, MD FACCP
Venture Partner,
5AM Ventures

Soyoung Park, MBA
Venture Partner,
VU Venture Partners &
Investment Due Diligence
Director, HealthTech
Capital

Danjuma Quarless, Ph.D., MBA
Associate Director,
AbbVie Ventures

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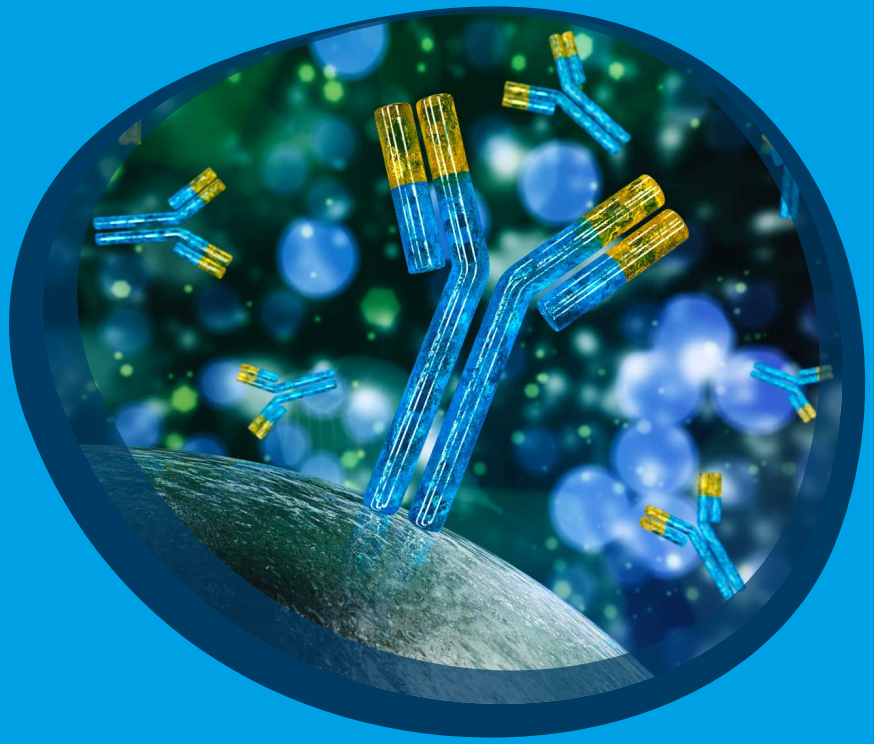


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Better world.
Better solutions.
Better focus.

Track A – Therapeutic Pitch Session #1

Presenting Companies

Anviron
(Oncology)

Califia Pharma, Inc.
(Oncology)

CDR3 Therapeutics
(Oncology)

Investor Q&A

Karl Handelsman, MBA, MS
Managing Partner, Codon Capital

Satoshi Konagai, MBA, MS
Associate Investment Director, Astellas Venture Management LLC

Danjuma Quarless, Ph.D., MBA
Associate Director, AbbVie Ventures

Sonia Maryam Setayesh, MS, Ph.D.
Investment Partner, Civilization Ventures

Samuel Wu, MD, Ph.D.
Venture Partner, 7G BioVentures

Anviron

"Several decades of literature have identified altered glycosylation as a hallmark of malignancy."

– Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi, Nobel Laureate 2022

Decades of research have established alterations in protein glycosylation as a driving factor in hallmarks of cancer behaviors, including uncontrolled growth, metastases, immune evasion, and drug resistance. More recently, inhibitors of enzymes involved in cancer-associated glycosylation have led to breakthrough findings in triple-negative breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, and most recently drug-resistant, Her2+ breast cancer. Unfortunately, current compounds carry extremely high toxicity, are unsuitable for humans, and little progress has been made with safer alternatives. The Anviron team has developed safer inhibitors for cancer-associated glycosylation. Their team has completed three successful proof-of-concept studies in pancreatic and breast cancers that established superiority over current, standard-of-care chemotherapies, with their lead drug candidate being awarded FDA Orphan Drug Designation for treating pancreatic cancer. Anviron's approach represents a hopeful advancement in addressing the unmet need in several difficult-to-treat, late-stage, solid tumor cancers.

CEO / FOUNDER

Bradley Morrison, MBA

bradley.morrison@anviron.com

As President of Anviron Corporation, Bradley's entrepreneurial journey began in college, where he founded two ventures before joining his family business. In 2015, he co-founded a successful medical device company. Since 2020, Bradley has led Anviron, bringing together experts in oncology, cancer biology, chemistry, and pharmacology. Bradley holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration from UC Santa Barbara and CSU Fullerton and an MBA from UC Irvine.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Tilmann Brotz, Principal, PharmaDirections
- Agustin de la Calle, EVP Business Development, Hinova Pharmaceuticals
- Ron Carozza, Executive VP, North American Operations, Avance Clinical
- Irene Fung, Senior Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis, Intersect ENT, Inc, a Medtronic company
- Tim Herpin, Chief Business Officer, Santa Ana Bio
- Leslie Holsinger, Head of Research and Development, Isosterix and R&D Executive for Lighthouse Pharma
- Dane Karr, Principal, Karr Konsulting
- Masoud Mokhtrani, Clinical Development/CMO Consultant, MOK BioPharma Consulting Inc.
- Michael Nowak, General Partner, Nowak Ventures
- Scott Turner, Chief Scientific Officer, Arda Therapeutics

Califia has a Precision Medicine approach for treating drug-resistant cancers with minimal systemic toxicity.

Califia has developed a comprehensive drug development platform targeting solid tumors, particularly TCR-deficient tumors that constitute 20% of cancers. Their rigorous approach involved designing, synthesizing, and testing over 400 molecules to identify a potent and safe intracellular cancer drug selectively blocking the TCR pathway. Canine studies have been completed to assess toxicity of the second-generation, a critical step in the drug development process, and have confirmed minimal toxicity for this new drug. Currently, Califia is actively seeking capital for the Phase 1 development of a second-generation drug, utilizing a small molecule approach. This new drug, an analog of Irofulven, is designed to reduce toxicity while enhancing efficacy, representing a significant advancement in the pursuit of effective and safe cancer treatments.

CEO / FOUNDER

Michael J. Kelner, MD, MS
mkelner@califiapharma.com

Dr. Michael Kelner, Founder and CEO of Califia Pharma, Inc., boasts 35 years of oncology drug development experience including development of 7 anticancer drugs. Notable achievements include discovering Illudin/Irofulven analogs at UCSD, leading groundbreaking trials for regulatory approval, and serving as a trusted consultant to the National Cancer Institute. With $10 million in NIH funding, 100+ publications, and 30 US patents, Dr. Kelner drives Califia Pharma's commitment to advancing cancer treatment.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Anthony Casarez, Co-founder and CSO, dGenThera, Inc.
- Ambreen Farook, Partnerships and Corporate Licensing Leader (former Halozyme, Pyxis Oncology, Pfizer)
- Adrian Jubb, Executive Vice President, Head of Clinical Development, Zentalis Pharmaceuticals
- Bert Lao, Counsel, Hogan Lovells
- Nelson Lin, Director, Solid Tumor Strategy, AbbVie
- Shinji Ogino, Director, Strategy and Operations, Xyphos Biosciences, an Astellas company
- Titus Plattel, CEO & President Viage Therapeutics/Biotech consultant, TP Consulting
- Shamali Roy, Product Management & Strategic Partnerships, Vector Laboratories, Inc.
- Qing Zhang, Partner, LDV Partners

CDR3 THERAPEUTICS
IMMUNITY BY DESIGN

CDR3 Therapeutics improves CAR-T cell therapy by transducing patient stem cells, enhancing T cell function and persistence while reducing complications like cytokine release syndrome.

CDR3 Therapeutics has developed a novel approach to Chimeric Antigen Receptor T (CAR-T) cell therapies, addressing the persistence limitations seen in current methods. The traditional approach involves processing T cells outside the patient's body, leading to reduced function and limited persistence. Additionally, most CAR-T therapies target proteins present on both cancer and normal cells, causing severe complications like cytokine release syndrome (CRS). CDR3's solution involves gene therapy on patient blood stem cells, which then engraft in the patient's bone marrow, resulting in continuous development of fully functional T cells. This innovative method requires a mild pre-conditioning regimen and focuses on virus-specific targets, minimizing the risk of CRS.

CEO / FOUNDER

Matthew C. Lorence, Ph.D., MBA
mclorence@cdr3tx.com

Matthew Lorence, CEO of CDR3 Therapeutics, brings extensive experience in therapeutics, genomics, and molecular diagnostics, with prior leadership roles at Chimera Therapeutics and Edge Biosystems. Holding a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and an MBA in Marketing from the University of Texas at Dallas, Lorence combines academic and practical expertise. With a strong FDA background and numerous peer-reviewed publications, he leads CDR3 Therapeutics in pioneering efforts to treat virus-associated cancers.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Miro Brajenovic, Chief Executive Officer, Pallando Therapeutics
- Vandana Date, Strategic & Business Advisor, Self-employed
- Michael Guderyon, Senior Scientist, MSAT
- Todd Lorenz, Clinical Development Advisor, SPARK-NeuroScience; Clinical Development Consultant Kinexum, LLC
- Kelly Nissen, Ph.D., Senior Associate, Alexandria Venture Investments
- Michael J. Nowak, Managing Partner, Nowak Ventures; Managing Director, BJC Capital
- Mary Rotunno, Board Member, VistaGen Therapeutics, SaNOtize Research and Development and Momentum for Health
- Chaminda Salgado, Principal Consultant at CS CMC Consulting ltd
- Alexander Soloviev, Business Development Manager, Excellos

Track B – MedTech Pitch Session #1

Presenting Companies

Arteri Tech
(Cardiovascular)

Humanity Neurotech
(Neurology/Psychiatry)

Sayenza Biosciences
(Aesthetic Surgery & Regenerative Medicine)

Investor Q&A

Vivian Golfin, MD
Senior Associate,
Intuitive Ventures

Ryan Pierce, MBA, MS
Venture Partner,
SV Health Investors

Helen Siaw, Ph.D.
Associate,
Mission BioCapital

Artem Trotsyuk, Ph.D.
Partner, LongeVC

Qing Zhang, MD, MBA
Partner, LDV Partners

ARTERI
CONSISTENT BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING

UC Berkeley's ARTERI unveils a compact cuff-free blood pressure solution for continuous health monitoring and early warnings on cardiovascular diseases and chronic conditions.

ARTERI, a spin-off from UC Berkeley, has introduced a groundbreaking solution for measuring blood pressure without the need for a cuff, addressing a significant gap in wearable technology. Utilizing advanced ultrasound technology, their system is designed to be integrated into wearable devices globally, making use of compact transducers and AI algorithms within a tiny 5 x 5 mm package. This technology not only meets but exceeds medical accuracy standards and has been extensively validated. With exclusive patents for this innovation, ARTERI offers a convenient, reliable method for continuous health monitoring, providing early warnings for health issues like cardiovascular diseases and chronic conditions. This represents a significant step forward in personalized health monitoring, offering an alternative to traditional, less convenient cuff monitors.

CEO / FOUNDER

Yu-Guang Yuan, MBA
y@arteritech.com

Yu-Guang Yuan, CEO of Arteri and a Berkeley Haas MBA graduate, is a seasoned entrepreneur with a track record of success. Prior to Arteri, he co-founded a series-A robotics startup, led a team of 100+ employees to dominate a niche market, and served as a Senior Product Manager at Eaton Corporation for 8 years, driving a 5% revenue increase across $100 million product lines.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Craig Darling, VP, Sales & Marketing, Valar Labs
- Robert Dickinson, Site Head, Novartis Biome SF, Novartis
- Vishal Dubey, Principal, Arches Ventures
- Faisal Khan, Senior Director, Marketing, Akura Medical
- Adi Kulkarni, Founder, IndusQuad LLC
- Stephen Mariano, Global Vice President, EndoSurgical R&D, FUJIFILM Healthcare Americas Corporation
- Nick Polytaridis, Chief Operating Officer, Altra Inc.
- Jill Roughan, Ph.D., Founder and President, Sciencia Consulting

Humanity Neurotech's device uses radio frequency magnetic fields to non-invasively reduce brain tissue inflammation, addressing therapeutic gaps in neurology and psychiatry.

Humanity Neurotech has created a low-energy inductive therapy (LEIT) device platform utilizing radio-frequency magnetic fields to noninvasively reduce inflammation in the central nervous system. Targeting brain inflammation, a significant focus in neurology and psychiatry, this innovative approach has shown anti-inflammatory efficacy in both mouse and human immune cells. Safety has already been established with an FDA-cleared device using a precursor technology to reduce post-surgical inflammation. Efficacy has been further demonstrated by profound reduction in neuroinflammation in rodents following inflammatory brain injury, indicating that LEIT has the potential to address unmet therapeutic needs with a unique device therapy absent in the current market.

CEO / FOUNDER

Blake Gurfein, Ph.D.
blake@humanityneurotech.com

Dr. Blake Gurfein, Founder and CEO of Humanity Neurotech and adjunct faculty at UCSF, is a leading figure in neuroscience and medical device innovation. His work focuses on developing advanced treatments for brain disorders characterized by neuroinflammation. With a track record of NIH funding, high-impact publications, and regulatory approvals for medical devices in the US and Europe, Dr. Gurfein is driving groundbreaking research at Humanity Neurotech.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Howard Edelman, Howard Edelman, Board of Directors, Tesa Medical
- Michael Hill, Global Head, Science & Technology and Innovation, Science Innovations L.L.C.
- Wesley Jones, Co-Founder and CEO, Vonova
- Will Kruka, Founder and Managing Member, RubiconSail Advisors LLC
- Ajay Patel, Vice President of Operations, Goddard
- Swati Ranade, Director, Scientific Market Development, NanoString Technologies, Inc.
- Chirag Shah, Medical Affairs Operations & Strategy Lead, Karuna Therapeutics, a Bristol Myers Squibb Company
- Amir Tehrani, Chief Executive Officer, PreView Medical
- Qing Zhang, Partner, LDV Partners

Sayenza Biosciences pioneers automated fat processing for streamlined aesthetic and regenerative medicine procedures, ensuring superior outcomes for patients and surgeons alike.

Sayenza Biosciences is pioneering a transformative approach to fat processing within the medical field. Recognizing fat's versatility in body contouring and stem cell therapies, the company addresses the current shortcomings of non-standardized and inefficient methods. Traditional techniques, whether using commercial devices or manual processes, are laborious and time-consuming, often involving multiple steps and manual input. Moreover, they carry contamination risks and processing limitations. Sayenza's closed-loop multifunctional platform and disposable cartridges offer a revolutionary solution. By generating optimized and personalized fat grafts or stem cell therapeutics at the point of care, the system streamlines procedures, reduces operating room time and costs, and enhances clinical outcomes for patients, promising fewer surgeries for desired aesthetic results and minimally invasive treatments for chronic wounds and osteoarthritis, just to name a few.

CEO / FOUNDER

Derek Banyard, MD, MS, MBA
derek@sayenza.com

Dr. Banyard, Founder and CEO of Sayenza Biosciences, transitioned from plastic surgery training to entrepreneurship, bringing extensive expertise in adipose tissue regeneration. As former chief scientist at UC Irvine's Center for Tissue Engineering, his research earned prestigious grants and international recognition. With over 100 publications and three patents, Dr. Banyard leads Sayenza Biosciences in pioneering bioscience innovation, leveraging his passion for advancing regenerative medicine.

ADVISORY TEAM

- David Davidovic, President at pathForward Strategic Consulting
- Joanne Dimitrakopoulos, Director of Digital Marketing, Takara Bio USA, Inc
- Lon Ensler, Chief Financial Officer, Ziteo Medical
- Graham Howe, Vice President, Program Management Office, BD Biosciences
- Verna Rodriguez, Executive Director, MTM program, Master of Translational Medicine - UCB & UCSF
- Matt Sitter, Chief Executive Officer, Advantage Foundry Network
- Monica Alfaro Welling, Co-founder & Managing Director, Atheln, Inc.

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Get in touch at grd.innovation@chiesi.com and learn more at ChiesiRareDiseases.com.

Track A – Therapeutic Pitch Session #2

Presenting Companies

Acrobat Genomics
(Genetic Disorders)

Orphagen Pharmaceuticals
(Oncology)

Sphinxion Therapeutics
(Pediatric Rare Disease)

VIAN Therapeutics
(Ophthalmology)

Investor Q&A

Karl Handelsman, MBA, MS
Managing Partner, Codon Capital

Satoshi Konagai, MBA, MS
Associate Investment Director, Astellas Venture Management LLC

Danjuma Quarless, Ph.D., MBA
Associate Director, AbbVie Ventures

Sonia Maryam Setayesh, MS, Ph.D.
Investment Partner, Civilization Ventures

Samuel Wu, MD, Ph.D.
Venture Partner, 7G BioVentures

AcrobATGenomics

"Acrobat Genomics, a Stanford spinoff, pioneers AI-driven optimization to accelerate the development of safe and effective genetic medicines.

Acrobat Genomics, a VC-backed biotech startup emerging from a premier CRISPR research laboratory at Stanford University, is accelerating the development of gene editing technology through artificial intelligence-guided high-throughput methods. Situated in the dynamic environment of MBC BioLabs in San Carlos, CA, the company focuses on solving key technological bottlenecks in the field of gene editing therapeutics, which include the need for precise and durable disease gene corrections that can be made in vivo. The technology comprises two main assets: one aimed at inhibiting off-target DNA editing and the other at directly editing disease DNA using new gene editing systems. This innovative approach signifies a potentially significant leap in the field of genetic medicine, offering the potential for targeted and effective treatments for a range of diseases.

CEO / FOUNDER

Nick Hughes, Ph.D.
nick.hughes@acrobatgenomics.com

Nick Hughes, Ph.D., is the co-founder and CEO of Acrobat Genomics. With over a decade of experience in gene editing technologies for cancer biology research, he has made significant contributions during his tenure at Stanford University, UCSF, and the Broad Institute. Additionally, Dr. Hughes has venture capital experience from his role as a Research Fellow at Longitude Capital.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Alicia Chung, Business Development & Strategy Advisor, Bionaut Labs
- Matt Killeen, Senior Advisor, Translational Research and Entrepreneurship, CVRTI
- Padma Kodukula, Chief Business Officer, A-Alpha Bio
- Barbara Leyman, Senior Vice President, Corporate Development, GenEdit
- Monica Miller, CEO, BioArkitecta
- Diya (Srividya) Mohan, Staff Scientist Bioinformatics, Cepheid
- Todd Peterson, Co-Founder and Chief Technologist, Barrier Biosciences, Founder and Principal, GenApex Bio

Orphagen is an IND-ready precision oncology therapeutics company backed by a first-in-class small molecule target discovery and development portfolio.

Orphagen develops first-in-class, wholly owned small molecule drugs based on novel targets. Our lead program, OR-449, is an IND-ready, orally-bioavailable antagonist to SF-1 (steroidogenic factor-1) for the treatment of multiple cancers including adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC), where SF-1 is universally expressed, and for expansion indications in SF-1(high) lung squamous and head and neck cancers carrying a unique genomic signature. OR-449 has demonstrated tumor growth inhibition in multiple preclinical models and represents a major opportunity to revolutionize ACC therapy and to create a novel tumor agnostic precision therapy in lung, head & neck, and related cancers for a ~9,000 US patient pool with $2.2B+ annual peak sales potential. GLP tox for OR-449 is complete, and GMP drug product (DP) intermediate has been prepared. Our pipeline includes earlier programs in oncology and IBD.

CEO / FOUNDER

Scott Thacher, Ph.D.
smt@orphagen.com

Scott founded Orphagen and developed its innovative discovery programs with a team of successful biotech entrepreneurs and scientists supported by NIH/SBIR funding and industry partnerships. Scott negotiated multiple Orphagen alliances in oncology and autoimmune disease. He brings extensive experience in the nuclear receptors, Orphagen's target family, from his prior experience at Allergan. Scott previously taught at the Texas A&M College of Medicine and holds a Ph.D. in Biophysics from Harvard. He co-founded the San Diego Entrepreneurs Exchange, a local entrepreneurs' group.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Krishna Allamneni, Executive Vice President, Chief Development Officer, Concarlo Therapeutics
- Ron Carozza, Executive VP, North American Operations, Avance Clinical
- Michelle Chen, Chief Business Officer, Insilico Medicine
- Ben Cohn, Associate Director, Strategy and Business Development (SBD), Bristol Myers Squibb
- Vandana Date, Strategic & Business Advisor, Self-employed
- William Hodder, Chief Executive Officer, NFlection Therapeutics
- Daniel E. Levy, Ph.D., Owner and Principal Consultant, DEL BioPharma LLC
- Troy Norris, Managing Director, Valamont Advisors, LLC
- Alexander Varond, Partner, Goodwin

SPHINXION THERAPEUTICS

Sphinxion Therapeutics is developing a novel gene therapy, AAV-SPL, for SPLIS, a rare metabolic disorder, with potential applications for other fibrotic diseases, addressing a significant unmet medical need.

Sphingosine Phosphate Lyase Insufficiency Syndrome (SPLIS), a rare metabolic disorder leading to severe nephrotic syndrome and glomerulosclerosis with a high early mortality rate, underscores the significance of sphingolipid metabolism in fibrosis. Discovered by Dr. Julie Saba in 2017, significant strides have been made in understanding and advocating for SPLIS, including prevalence estimation, biobank establishment, biomarker validation, mouse model development, and conducting a natural history study. With significant basic science research in hand including validated and published animal data, Sphinxion Therapeutics is pioneering an AAV-mediated SGPL1 gene therapy (AAV-SPL) as a novel treatment approach, with no known direct competitors. This research not only offers hope for SPLIS patients but also suggests potential therapeutic avenues for other fibrotic diseases, such as pulmonary fibrosis, which currently lacks gene or cell therapy options, indicating a broader impact of sphingolipid metabolism studies on fibrotic disease treatment.

CO-FOUNDER

Julie Saba, MD, Ph.D.
Julie.Saba@ucsf.edu

Dr. Julie Saba, Founder and CEO of Sphinxion Therapeutics, is renowned for her pioneering research in pediatric oncology and sphingolipid metabolism. Her groundbreaking discoveries have unveiled the critical role of sphingolipids in childhood cancers, leading to innovative gene therapies for rare conditions like those related to the SGPL1 gene. Sphinxion Therapeutics is committed to addressing prevalent diseases such as Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, driven by Dr. Saba's dedication to advancing therapeutic interventions and improving patient outcomes.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Carole Bellis, Partner, DLA Piper
- Luke Gruenert, Director Strategic Innovation, Rare Diseases, Chiesi USA, Inc.
- Tom Lester, Consultant, InspireBio Consulting
- Nick Mordwinkin, Chief Business and Strategy Officer, Third Rock Ventures NewCo
- Dalia Rayes, Founder and CEO, BioLaunch Advisors
- Sougol Shooshtarian, Corporate Associate, DLA Piper
- Odessa Yabut, Preclinical Program Advisor

VIAN THERAPEUTICS

VIAN Therapeutics is pioneering a transformative eyedrop, VIAN-c4551, a potent antiangiogenic cyclic peptide to treat eye disorders effectively and conveniently, with clinical trials set to start in 2024.

VIAN Therapeutics, a preclinical biopharma company, is revolutionizing ophthalmology and retinal care by developing an innovative solution to deliver drugs to the back of the eye using an eyedrop instead of the current standard, which is an intraocular injection. Their breakthrough involves a small antiangiogenic cyclic peptide, VIAN-c4551, designed for treating microvascular retinal disorders such as diabetic macular edema and age-related macular degeneration. The peptide's unique physicochemical characteristics enable it to penetrate the eye barriers more effectively, offering higher concentration, longevity, and retinal exposure compared to other eyedrop candidates. Unlike treatments targeting VEGF alone, VIAN-c4551 inhibits other pathways like Ang2. VIAN-c4551 binds with high affinity and selectivity to a specific membrane receptor in endothelial cells, achieving picomolar potency to inhibit angiogenesis and vascular permeability. With proven efficacy in various animal models in different species, VIAN Therapeutics plans to move swiftly through clinical development, aiming for Phase 1 trial results by the end of 2024 and starting Phase 2 trials in 2025, pursuing a time and capital-efficient strategy to bring this groundbreaking treatment to market.

CEO / FOUNDER

Juan Pablo Robles, Ph.D.
jp.robles@viantx.com

Dr. Juan Pablo Robles, Ph.D., Founder and CEO of VIAN Therapeutics, brings a decade of molecular biology expertise to redefine vision protection. Through pivotal research, he discovered a crucial molecule driving the company's therapeutic approach. Dr. Robles secured $275K in funding through IndieBio and honed his entrepreneurial skills at UCSF and Nucleate. With visionary leadership, VIAN Therapeutics is poised to transform vision care under his guidance.

ADVISORY TEAM

- Gary Choy, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, f5 Therapeutics, Inc.
- Akash Datwani, Ph.D, Vice President, Business Development & Strategic Alliances - Alto Neuroscience
- Andrew Hollands, Director - Early Research, Inhibrx, Inc.
- Swaminathan Murugappan, President and Owner, Trident Bio Consulting Inc.
- Gebhard Neyer, SVP, Product Development, Axon Therapeutics; Co-Founder of Ocelot Bio
- David Passmore, David Passmore, Head of Business Development, AbTherx
- Rahul Pathak, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs
- Eva Schifini, Associate, FDA & Life Sciences Regulatory and Compliance, Hogan Lovells
- Lowell M. Zeta, Partner, FDA & Life Sciences Regulatory and Compliance, Hogan Lovells

Track B – MedTech Pitch Session #2

Presenting Companies

Asha Medical
(Immunotherapy)

Respiree
(Cardio-pulmonary)

Scientific Horizons
(Pulmonary/Drug delivery)

Syntr Health
(Reconstructive Surgery)

Investor Q&A

Vivian Golfin, MD
Senior Associate,
Intuitive Ventures

Ryan Pierce, MBA, MS
Venture Partner,
SV Health Investors

Helen Siaw, Ph.D.
Associate,
Mission BioCapital

Artem Trotsyuk, Ph.D.
Partner, LongeVC

Qing Zhang, MD, MBA
Partner, LDV Partners

asha

Asha Medical is pioneering a revolutionary wearable immunotherapy platform for treating cancer.

Asha Medical is on a mission to revolutionize cancer treatment with a non-pharmacological immunotherapy device, a platform developed in collaboration with leading researchers from Stanford University, UCSF, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and UT Southwestern Dallas. Asha Medical has generated compelling preclinical data demonstrating the promise of its patented therapy in priming the immune system to fight cancer effectively. These studies also show an excellent safety profile, suggesting Asha therapy can be a potentially safer alternative for treating cancer. Asha Medical is currently working towards FDA approval to begin the first-in-human clinical trial.

CEO / FOUNDER

Vivek Sharma, MS, MBA
vivek@asha-medical.com

Vivek Sharma, founder of Asha Medical, is a seasoned medical device entrepreneur with a proven track record in bringing innovative medical solutions to market. Prior to launching Asha, Vivek co-founded Nesos Corp, a neurotech startup focused on autoimmune diseases. He has held leadership roles at Verily, Nevro, Boston Scientific, and St. Jude Medical (now part of Abbott). Driven by a personal connection to cancer, Vivek's vision for Asha Medical is to develop an efficacious, comfortable, and safer treatment option for patients. Leveraging his leadership and business acumen, he has assembled a world-class team of scientists, engineers, and medical professionals to revolutionize cancer care with Asha's pioneering wearable immunotherapy platform.

Respiree

Respiree© is a first-of-its-kind virtual care platform that uses a novel and inventive US Patented, FDA 510k cleared, EHR-interoperable and clinically validated solution based on real-time cardio-lung volume data to accurately identify and manage cardio-lung dysfunctions for acute to chronic diseases that include COPD, Asthma, Cystic Fibrosis and Congestive Heart Failure.

Respiree© is a digital therapeutics company providing personalized healthcare services for cardio-pulmonary disease management using a combination of proprietary breath-cardio sensors, AI and workflow integrated UIUX, across the acute to chronic care-continuum. The iRIS platform by Respiree© uses data captured from remote-patient-monitors, mobile applications and medical records to longitudinally measure, track disease progression and create reports for physicians and hospitals. iRIS is an enterprise-grade solution that is interoperable and streamlined into clinical workflow allowing nurses to manage patients within hospital, in hospital-in-the-home programs to longer term chronic disease management.

CEO / FOUNDER

Dr. Gurpreet Singh, Ph.D., MBA
gurpreet@respiree.com

Gurpreet is CEO and founder of a digital therapeutics company Respiree. Gurpreet holds a PhD in electrical engineering, completed under an A*STAR scholarship, and a postdoctoral fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Singapore Management University. Respiree devices are CE marked, approved from the United States Food and Drug Administration and Therapeutics Good Administration in Australia.

Scientific Horizons

Our company pioneers an innovative pulmonary drug delivery platform that treats complex lung diseases and some systemic disorders. It features compatibility from small molecules to large biologic APIs, ensures efficient deep lung deposition, provides real-time dose monitoring and control, and offers formulation-enabled programmable release. This enhances patient compliance and outcomes for diseases such as viral lung infections, MDRO pneumonia, tuberculosis, NTM, and various systemic disorders, including CNS and mental health conditions.

Scientific Horizons is a California-based research organization leading the development of cutting-edge respiratory medical technologies through our innovative pulmonary drug delivery platform. Our primary focus is to tackle high-impact healthcare and public health challenges, including hard-to-treat lung diseases and harm reduction for smoking cessation. We are dedicated to improving the quality of life and care for patients suffering from conditions such as non-tuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) infections, MDRO pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB), viral lung infections, COPD, and pulmonary hypertension. Located in a 22,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility at UCI Research Park, our mission-driven, passionate multidisciplinary team leverages deep industry knowledge and advanced science and technology to conduct applied research and develop meaningful innovations. These efforts drive advancements in molecular delivery methods, significantly enhancing individual health outcomes and broad public health benefits.

PRESIDENT / FOUNDER

Xiang Gao, Ph.D.
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Dr. Xiang Gao is the Chief Scientist at Scientific Horizons, with a Ph.D. in Chemistry from UC Berkeley and industry experience at Danaher Corporation and Envista Holding. He spearheaded the development of a pioneering infection prevention product during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been quickly adopted across healthcare settings. Dr. Gao has also been instrumental in advancing smoking cessation/harm reduction alternative technologies, making significant contributions to public health. He currently leads the development of our innovative pulmonary drug delivery platform, enhancing the delivery of medications from small molecules to large biologics, ensuring safety, efficacy, and user-friendliness for improved patient outcomes and healthcare.

Syntr Health is a medical device company harnessing the patient's own cells for breast cancer reconstructive surgery.

Syntr's premise is to harness the power of the patient's own fat tissue to treat aging-related conditions. The problem in the medical world today is that we have multiple solutions for each human ailment or condition versus a true platform technology that can target various ailments. That is a major bottleneck to advancing the world of medicine. Syntr Health Technologies, provides the only automated platform technology that is FDA cleared to target up to 12 surgical specialties. Our first indication is in the Plastic and Reconstructive surgery field with the treatment of breast cancer mastectomies and lumpectomies through breast cancer reconstructive surgery.

CEO / FOUNDER

Ahmed Zobi, EMBA, CEO and Founder
azobi@syntrtech.com

Ahmed Zobi, founder and CEO of Syntr Health Technologies, has a decade of experience in the medical device industry. He advises and mentors many startups, has been recognized as a Forbes Next 1000 Honoree. Ahmed also serves as a board member at various organizations, including the Wound Healing Society and the UCI Beall Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Ahmed's vision is a world where patients can harness the power of their own cells to combat aging related conditions.

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California Life Sciences' entrepreneur initiatives connect life science startups to the resources needed to help them effectively scale their ventures. Our programs create a platform for accessing business partners, investors, foundations and patient advocacy organizations, peers, and other industry leaders.

CALIFORNIA LIFE SCIENCES
FASTCalifornia
FOSTERING INNOVATION

CLS is now accepting applications from early-stage life sciences companies for its FAST California advisory program. Companies developing innovative solutions in the following therapeutic and diagnostic areas are encourage to apply. A group of curated advisors, each with deep domain expertise, will work with them over twelve weeks to build a compelling commercialization strategy and prepare them for an Innovation Showcase to a curated audience of potential investors and collaboration partners. The FAST program takes place twice a year and promises to build a strong life sciences community of innovators, advisors, and investors throughout California that will support early-stage innovation (Pre-Seed to Series A) and attract the attention of investors and strategics globally.

Now accepting applications for our Fall 2024 FAST cohort. Deadline July 1st.

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CALIFORNIA LIFE SCIENCES

FASTCalifornia

FOSTERING INNOVATION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE FALL COHORT

FAST program welcomes applications from early-stage life sciences companies developing innovative solutions in all therapeutic and diagnostic areas. We specially encourage companies with:

- Platform technologies for in-vivo gene editing or in-vivo gene therapy technologies
- Novel delivery systems (for nucleotides, small molecules, biologics, ADCs)
- Targeted delivery technologies (tumor specific, CNS delivery)
- pDNA and/or mRNA-based therapeutics and biopharmaceutical technologies
- Novel therapeutics for oncology indications
- Innovative therapeutics for rare diseases indications (e.g. neurological disorders, metabolic, dermatology, ophthalmology, blood disorders etc.)

JULY 1 DEADLINE

APPLY NOW ⟩⟩